

# Improving Literacy Skills in Canadian Children and Youth

## Phonological Awareness Skills Training

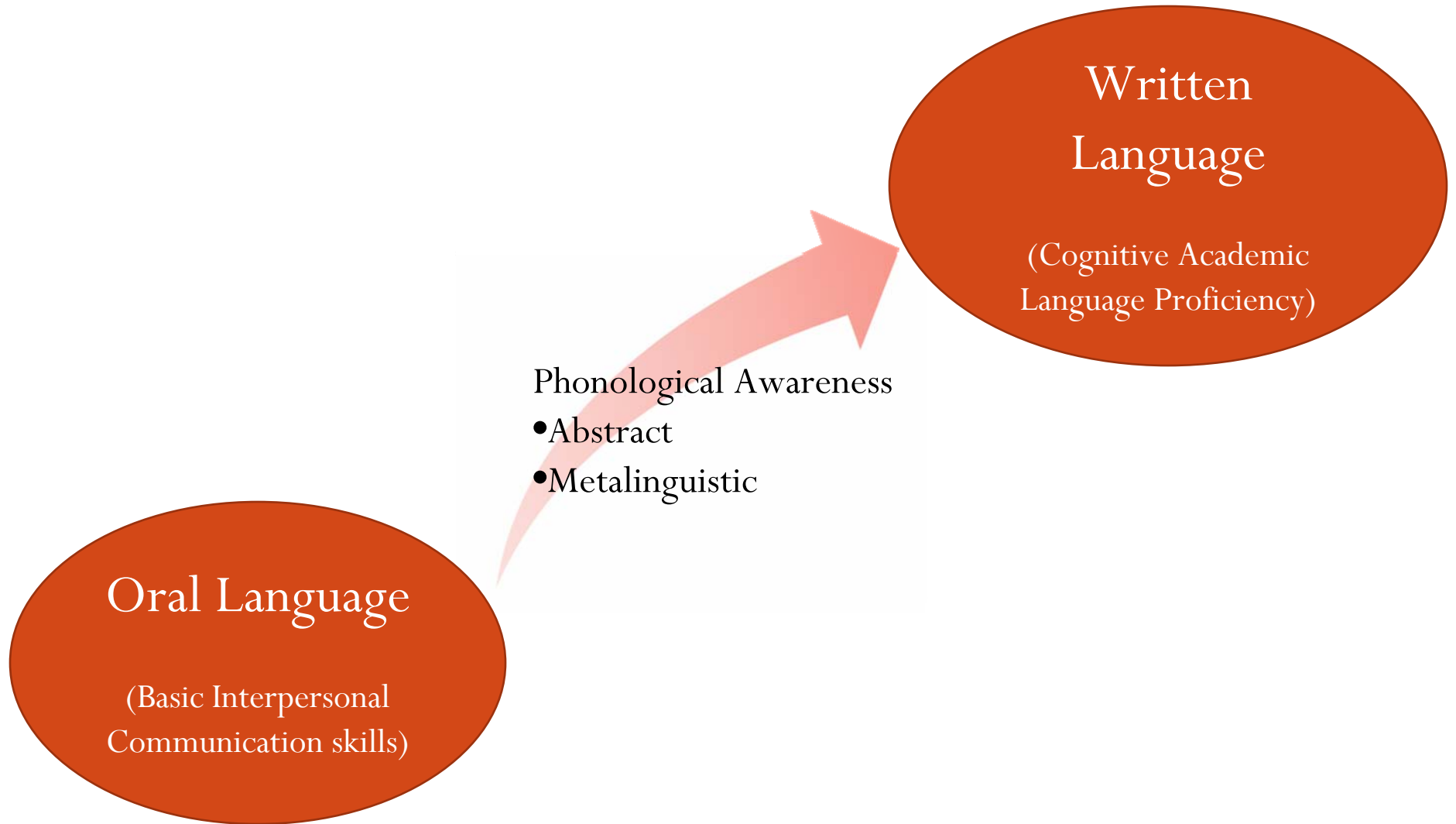
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By

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# Progression from Oral to Written Language



# Phonological Awareness Skills

## 1: Alphabetic Principle

- Awareness of Sounds
- Visual Representation of Sounds



## 2: Hierarchical Progression

- Decoding and Encoding
- Reading for Meaning
- Reading to Learn

# Impact of Phonological Awareness Skills

- Highly predictive of reading and writing abilities
- Primary difficulty in developmental dyslexia
- Intervention improves reading levels

# Proposal: Phonological Awareness Skills Training

## 1. Kindergarten Curriculum: Systematic Stimulation

- National Program
- Rhyming, synthesis / blending and analysis
- Created by SLP's
- Implemented by Kindergarten Teachers
- Monitor Efficacy

# Proposal: Phonological Awareness Skills Training

## 2. Children at Increased Risk: Preventative Management

- Who: Specific Language Impairment

Developmental Verbal Dyspraxia

- What: Language and Phonological Awareness Classes

Similar to Toronto School Boards

- Linkages: Public Health SLP ⇔ School Board SLP

# Proposal: Phonological Awareness Skills Training

## 3. Children not meeting Kindergarten Expectations:

### Early Identification and Intervention

- Pre March Break Testing
- Below average Phonological Awareness  $\Rightarrow$  School Board SLP Referral
- Reduce Risk of Learning Disabilities

# Important Considerations

- School Board Speech-Language Pathologists
  - Scope of Practice
  - Role in Literacy Development
- Visual Perceptual Skills
  - Sight Words and High Frequency Words

# Questions